GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1763
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
DISEASE AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN
Patil Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified school children suffering from major ailments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such diseases in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): The commonest diseases occurring among school children are measles, diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, tuberculosis, chickenpox, worm infestations and sepsis. The steps taken by the Government of prevent diseases among school children is to provide support for School Health Programmes in each and every district of the country based on the specific proposals prepared as part of the District Health Action Plans. Currently 21 states have initiated the School Health Programme as per the list Annexed. The key steps taken under this programme which help to improve the health of school children and prevent recurrence of such diseases in them are:-

i. Incorporation of good practices on Nutrition and Health Education in the text books and other learning materials as also in teacher training programmes;

ii. Putting in place a system of regular health checkup of children and provision of health card for every child;

iii. Incorporation of preventive and promotive health practices in teacher training modules;

iv. Provision for corrective action (provision of spectacles, medicines, hearing aid) as per need;

v. Provision of secondary and tertiary care help wherever required;

vi. Availability of medicines and regularity of programmes like de-worming, Vitamin-A supplementation, micro-nutrients based on scientific evidence and local need;

vii. Incorporation of health practices in food preparation under the Mid Day Meal programme;

viii. Support for Yoga and meditation in Schools;

ix. Provision of cleanliness drives and developing awareness and clean drinking water, sanitation.